

From: Renee Michaels <aclass70@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 3:30 PM
To: Rep. Ken Horn (District 94); Rep. Mike Shirkey (District 65); Rep. Opsommer's Office (District 93); Rep. Hugh Crawford (District 38); Rep. Joseph Haveman (District 90); Rep. Ray Franz; Rep. Brad Jacobsen; Rep. Ed McBroom; Rep. Aric Nesbitt; Rep. Rick Outman; Rep. Amanda Price; Rep. Dale W. Zorn; Rep. Roy Schmidt (District 76); Rep. Harvey Santana; Rep. Jeff Irwin; Rep. Charles Brunner; Rep. Thomas Stallworth; Rep. Phil Cavanagh; Rep. Charles Smiley; Rep. Jon Switalski (District 25); Cath Petroskey; Rep. Eileen Kowall (District 44)
Subject: HB4265-4266 - "Yard Waste" returning to Lanfill bills - OPPOSE
Attachments: GrassToGasBill.notgoodforMichigan.doc; ListasofMarch2nd2012.pdf

**Honorable Representative Horn and
Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:**

It is very important to realize the harm that will be created if your vote is used to pass this bill. It will not be something that will be easily reversed once this huge mistake has been realized. It has taken twenty years to get where we are now with "Yard Waste Composting".

Urban Farming has taken off in the State of Michigan and they are using compost to grow crops in populated areas. These crops are used to help feed the poor and "finished compost" is their growing power used to establish these crops.

Throughout the United States and other countries, people are starving. They need food and water to live. Never once do you ever hear on TV that they are asking for your help because they need energy to live. In essence one can live without energy but you cannot live without food and water.

These are the many reasons why these House Bills 4265 and 4266 need to be voted down:

- **Yard Waste/ food waste - is the only way in which man can manufacture dirt. There isn't any other way. Further, topsoil comes from stripping new construction job sites and in this economy new construction is at a minimum. Just where are we supposed to get topsoil from - China?**
- Man can create energy through the use of wind, water etc.; meaning there are other ways to produce more methane gas without putting "yard waste" back into the landfill.
- Yard Waste processed into "finished compost" is the key ingredient to growing power for both our farmers and our residents. "Finished compost" is used to clean up brown fields and helps to conserve water during drought conditions because it asks like a sponge. It helps to protect our environment.
- There is a ban on using phosphate fertilizers to save our Great Lakes - what is the replacement? Finished compost, which is high in nutrients and does not require any more fertilizers for growth.
- The individuals that have invested in property and equipment to Yard Waste Compost will be all wiped out across the State of Michigan should this bill pass.
- Any business that has been developed to promote the processing of Yard Waste Composting will all suffer should this bill pass. This includes the receiving Yard Waste Sites, equipment companies, odor control companies, companies that have developed equipment to process Yard Waste, farmers and many more.
- Once the sites are wiped out for receiving Yard Waste and it is returned to the landfills, the average homeowner will incur more costs. The travel time it takes to go to a landfill is longer and the tipping fees are higher. The increase will be seen when Cities or Townships go out for re-bid on their garbage pickup services.
- The Dept. of Agriculture has taught farmers to manage manure by mixing it with leaves to stabilize the material before it is land applied to protect ground water. Now the leaves will be going back into the landfill. Without the carbon source of leaves, it will be difficult if not impossible for farmers to be able to properly manage manure.
- Farmers are listed on the registered list and are using Yard Waste to help offset the costs of there farms as well as using the valued nutrient soil to land apply to their crops.
- If you vote to allow a recycled material back into the landfill because the landfills state they want to generate more methane, why not allow all the materials back into the landfill for a use that the landfills deem as being more

useful. DO YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO RECYCLING HERE IN MICHIGAN? It will be wiped out along with all the jobs and businesses that have been created. NEW BUSINESSES will no longer open to recycle because who is going to take the risk and make the investment to recycle a resource when some politician can pass a bill tomorrow and push it back to the landfill on a whim.

- **The State of Michigan will give up all the sales tax revenue it receives through the sale of finished compost and from the sale of topsoil (compost is used to manufacture topsoil). The tax revenue will also be lost for all those bio-degradable bags the entire State of Michigan Residents buy along with all the sales tax revenue the state receives from all the equipment purchased across the State of Michigan to process yard waste material. The sales tax revenue from the amount of diesel fuel that is used will decline. Not only the haulers that go to the landfills use Diesel fuel, it is also used in all the equipment it takes to process the compost material at all the facilities located across the state. Revenue will be lost from the number of jobs this bill will wipe out along with the number of properties that will be left vacant. These are only some of the sales tax revenues the State of Michigan will lose.**
- **A great number of jobs will be lost should this bill pass but no new jobs will be created.**
- **The landfill prices per ton have dropped because of recycling; pushing more materials back to the landfill will cause the rates to go back up.**
- **The State of Michigan has taught its residents the importance of recycling. Sending this material back to the landfill will cause a negative chain reaction. Michigan is still way behind on recycling and when it is finally starting to take off; this bill is going to push it backwards again. Michigan needs to be known for more than just being one of the largest car manufactures, it would be nice to be the largest State of recycling. We need leaders that are capable of taking this State in that direction.**

Consider the people here in Michigan and what is in their best interest before this committee makes a huge mistake in passing HB 4265 and HB 4266.

Do NOT give up our ability to produce a well-needed nutrient rich dirt that promotes growth for not only our food supply but also our plant life and tree life. Please oppose HB 4265 and HB 4266.

Sincerely,

Renee Michaels

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